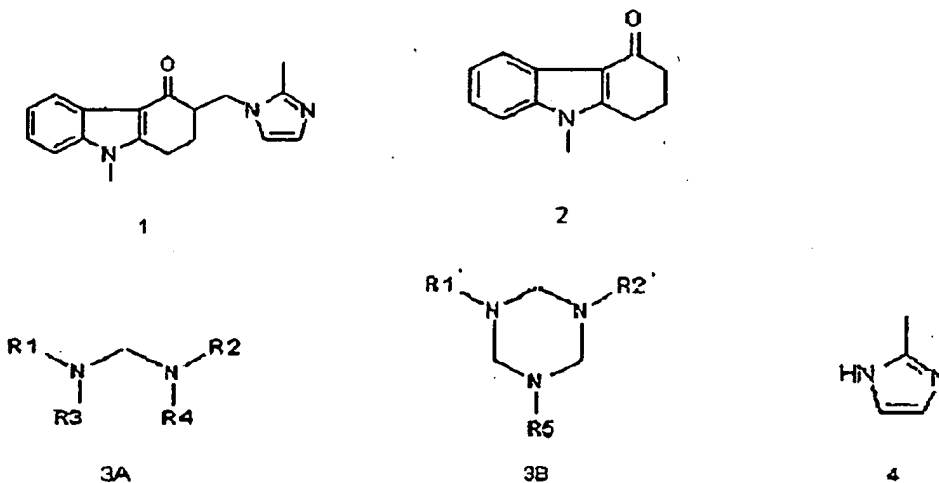


IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a listing of the claims in this application with claims 1 and 2 shown as amended:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula 1, which comprises: allowing a compound of formula 2 to react with a compound of formula 3A or 3B and a compound of formula 4 in the presence of an acid, an alkylsilylhalide compound or an acylhalide compound, in a solvent:



wherein

~~R¹, R², R³~~ R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are each independently C₁₋₆ alkyl or phenyl; or R¹ and R³, or R² and R⁴ are fused together with the nitrogen atoms to which they are attached to form a ~~3- to 6-membered cycloalkyl group or~~ 6-membered

heterocycloalkyl group optionally containing O or S, ~~optionally substituted with methyl~~; and R^{1'}, R^{2'} and R⁵ are each independently C₁₋₆ alkyl or aryl.

2. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein the compounds of formulae 3A and 3B are each independently selected from the group consisting of N, N, N', N'-tetramethyldiaminomethane, N, N, N', N'-tetraethyldiaminomethane, ~~N,N,N',N'-tetrabutyl~~N,N,N',N'-tetrabutyldiaminomethane, dipiperidinomethane, ~~4,4'-methylenebis(3-methylpiperidine)~~, 4,4'-methylenedimorpholine, 1,3, 5-tribenzylhexahydro-1,3, 5-triazine, 1, 3, 5-triethylhexahydro-1, 3, 5-triazine and 1,3,5-trimethylhexahydro-1,3,5-triazine.

3. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the compound of formula 3A or 3B is employed in an amount of 0.3 eq. ~ 10 eq. to the compound of formula 2.

4. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the compound of formula 4 is employed in an amount of 1 eq. ~ 10 eq. to the compound of formula 2.

5. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, acetic acid, trifluoroacetic acid, methanesulfonic acid, aluminum chloride, zinc chloride, iron chloride (III), iron chloride (II), tin chloride and boron trifluoride.

6. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the alkylsilylhalide compound is selected from the group consisting of

chlorotrimethylsilane, trichloromethylsilane and t-butyldimethylsilyl chloride.

7. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the acylhalide compound is selected from the group consisting of acetylchloride, pivaloylchloride and ethylchloroformate.

8. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein the acid, alkylsilylhalide compound or acylhalide compound is employed in an amount of 0.1 eq. ~ 10 eq. to the compound of formula 3A or 3B.

9. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of 1,2-dichloroethane, ethylacetate, tetrahydrofuran, toluene, 1,4-dioxane, dimethylformamide, 2-methoxyethylether and a mixture thereof.

10. (Original) The process of claim 1, wherein the reaction is performed in reflux.